

**From:** Ritchey, Gail (COT)

**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2008 2:06 PM

**To:** COT Constitutional CIO Security Contacts; COT Cabinet CIO Security Contacts; CTC Members

**Cc:** COT Exchange Administrators; COT Security Alert Contacts; COT Security Contact COT-Support; COT Security Contact Pass; COT Security Contact Self-Support; COT Technical Contacts; SecurityContacts Group

**Subject:** COT Security Alert - Malicious Email Attachment

## **COT Security Alert**

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The COT Security Administration Branch is alerting Commonwealth email users of a malicious email attachment threat reported by US-CERT (United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team). The attachment is a .ZIP file, "Invitation.zip", containing a .CHM file named "Invitation.chm" which creates an executable file named "AcroRD32.exe" in the user's system TEMP directory when opened.

Caution should be used at all times when opening email and email attachments. Users should never open attachments from unknown senders and should verify unexpected email attachments from known senders. Malicious files that come in email attachments usually run automatically when opened and may spread quickly across network computers.

The .CHM file type is only one of many file types which Microsoft categorizes as "unsafe file types" as they can be used to deliver malicious code to unsuspecting users. These files should be treated as inherently dangerous. More information on these file types may be found on the Microsoft site at <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/925330>.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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